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Unofficial Programme of Roosevelt's Reception

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George III

Unofficial Programme

OF

Alexander Hamilton

ROOSEVELT'S RECEPTION

BY

THE HAMILTON CLUB

Theodore I

By EDWARD GARSTIN SMITH

AUTHOR OF

THE LIFE AND REMINISCENCES OF
ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

AND

THE REAL ROOSEVELT

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During his well advertised visit in London Roosevelt received an envoy extraordinary of the Hamilton Club, from Chicago, with a handsomely engrossed set of resolutions, full of fulsome flattery, expensively bound and encased.

Out of gracious appreciation Roosevelt introduced this Hamiltonian envoy to royalty—nine kings. Shortly after his return this gentleman had to wear his right hand in a sling because every Hamiltonian wanted to shake the hand that held nine kings', being five more than honest Pat Sheedy ever dared to hold.

This club attended the Roosevelt reception in New York in princely style. They engaged a special train and two locomotives to beat the Twentieth Century Express. They engaged a whole floor in the Waldorf-Astoria, where perennially Wall Street and Washington, D. C., combines to absorb the country. They chartered a large steamer with a loud whistle to greet the incoming hero.

After the intense excitement of Roosevelt's reception in New York had subsided the Hamiltonians still lounged about the Waldorf-Astoria, drinking mint juleps and awaiting a message from Oyster Bay to the Lobsters at

bay. It came after three days of vigil at the tank west of "Peacock alley."

The greatest man in the world would grant them an audience the next day, June 22, at his Outlook Office for a look out at the political horizon.

At the appointed time the Hamiltonians marched down to Roosevelt's office and blew in. They left their hats in the hall and shoes in the street. They were at last in the presence of greatness.

Judge John H. Batten, president of the club, made a speech. I shall not report what he said, but shall say what he ought to have said. Here goes: "Noble son of God, who can do no wrong, we welcome you back to our native land. Shakespeare said: 'What is in a name?' We hurl back the answer there is much in a name. All the world knows the full meaning of the ominous word Roosevelt. We also know what Hamiltonism means.

"What Hamilton stood for Roosevelt can stand on!" (Great cheers by the Hams, joined in by the populace outside. During the excitement Roosey felt for his sixshooter and fired out of the window, killing two pigeons and one dove.)

After quiet was restored Judge Batten resumed batten-away at the patriotic subject. Said he: "We are the Baronial delegation of the lordly Hamilton Club. We came from Chicago. No picture or bust of Thomas Jefferson mars the scenery of our home.

"We do not endorse that absurd piece of political jargon, the Declaration of Independence.

"The Constitution of the United States, framed by a few old fogy backwoodsmen, is a back number with us, as well as with you who have filled it full of holes.

"Our library is well censored and our African boy has orders to look through all publications and cut out the names or faces of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Rousseau, Franklin, Ingersoll and other advocates of that vulgar and dangerous thing called liberty.

"Colonel Roosevelt, we thank God that we are as dog-goned dogmatic, mean, hypocritical and imperialistic as you are.

"We love you dearly and admire you for the wonderful way you have of grabbing the goods—and getting away before the patrol wagon comes.

"We have a few precepts which coincide with your own unerring views of life. 'The end justifies the means.' 'Success justifies everything.' 'Get the money, no matter how.' 'Tell the truth whenever absolutely necessary—but do not be finicky about it. If caught in a lie, abuse the other fellow.' We wish we could do this as successfully as you do. If caught with the goods, hire a lawyer. We have a lot of them in our club. They must all make a living. So you see, they can not afford to be too scrupulous. Nicholas Macchiavelli is our patron saint.

"Colonel Roosevelt, there are ethics—and then there are ethics. There are moral ethics and political ethics. Moral ethics are for students, philosophers, children and the women folks. They are Platonic rules — purely academic.

"But political ethics — that's the stuff. That is our code—made for practical men—men who dare do things even if the law forbids.

"One of the primary rules of political ethics is not to do your comrades when there are others to despoil. We thank God, times are so prosperous under our party that there need be no political cannibals.

"By the way, Colonel, when you were in Paris did you meet our dear old friend, Bunau Varilla? The press dispatches were silent on that subject.

"Oh! Noble Roosevelt, son of God, founder of our great American imperial dynasty, you are the noble king and we are the noble nobles.

"We are proud that you are the product of American soil and that it is unnecessary to go abroad to import our king.

"We love you because you are of us and we are of you. Our instincts and interests are identical. We subsist on and must keep the people down.

"The sun shines, the rain falls and the dew kisses the growing crops; the cattle browse on the hills; the delicious grapes ripen on the vines; the palatable fish bask in the sea; the coal, iron and precious metals are in the earth—all these desirable things and many more are ours, but we need the hands and toil of many common people to procure them for us.

"We have the money; they have the labor. Let us keep labor down to the lowest level of safety and put capital up as high as possible. 'E pluribus unum' for us.

"We invite you to visit us in Chicago Sep-

tember 8, 1910, at a banquet in your honor, at 6 p. m., so that you can take a midnight train and lose none of your precious time.

"When we are all assembled at the festive board, the convocation will have the divine invocation performed by a real live fat bishop; such appeals to the deity being customary at the assembling of all honorable public bodies like the Congress of the United States and the Illinois State Legislature.

"You know, Colonel, that devout Christian prayer, like your rough-rider hat, covers a multitude of sins.

"Our beloved brother, William the Silent, Duke of Lorimer, will not be present, owing to a serious collision with the Chicago Tribune's automobile on the 'via Senatus.'

"His crippled and bandaged person would mar the festivities; but his political spirit will be there.

"Bishop Anderson, for obvious reasons, will not mention his name in his prayer to the Old Gentleman in heaven. But from all of our political hearts comes a prayer direct to you, that you exercise your authority over your United States Senate so that so valuable a politician as Senator William Lorimer may not

lose his seat in the American House of Lords.

"We are attending to his interests here in the best way man can. We have a state's attorney who is honest, able and willing. He has a large number of empty shells and a score that would not get much at a shooting match. He would make a fine Methodist preacher; but as a state's attorney he has a way of keeping rich malefactors out of jail. In this he reminds us of you. He is an American. We must stand by our pals."

(Great cheering. Roosevelt grinning from ear to ear, shouted, "Bully! Bully!")

"After the feast of food, flood of spirits and gush of adulation, we will have a few jack-pots and then retire to suitable bath rooms. Here is where we can use a few bottles of your patent political purifier.

"Noble Roosevelt, you have been away from us for more than a year. We are eager to tell you the truth.

"Presently you will send out scouts and then take the trail yourself. But we want to put you wise right now. Since your departure homeward from South Africa the people heard an awful explosion in Egypt and a volcanic eruption at the Guildhall in London.

"You overplayed your hand.

"Today the populace views you with suspicion; but the opulent rich all over the country are with you 'to the hilt'—and ready to use the blade.

"We are a rich country and the rich must be protected. We look to you to save the country. Long live King Theodore I.!"

At the conclusion of this eloquent speech President Roosevelt said, with characteristic honesty and bravery:

"Fellow Hamiltonians, I have been deeply moved and indelibly impressed with the profound wisdom so eloquently propounded by your president, Judge Batten.

"I will be with you in person at 6 p. m., September 8; but I am with you in spirit always. Remember, we must be in harmony to meet the enemy.

"You asked me about Bunau Varilla. I decline to answer. There are reporters present. I do not want to have to deny what I said. Besides, that is a closed incident.

"However, boys, that Panama deal was a pretty smooth piece of business. It was a job by professionals—no blundering.

"It was a bloodless revolution, that third

day of November, 1903. No ammunition was used but gold dollars, although my warships were down there with plenty of ammunition of another sort ready to be used if necessary.

"On the same day the revolution begun it ended; the old government ceased and the new one was inducted.

"As president of the United States I stood ready to recognize the new Republic of Panama before it was born; but out of respect for the law of nations and to make sure that everything went off according to schedule, I waited three days, and then officially recognized it and informed Colombia of the amputation.

"In two weeks I signed the Panama Canal treaty. A few weeks later I made Congress pay $40,000,000 for the worthless old French Panama bonds that a few shrewd gentlemen bought up for a song and cleaned up a profit of about $35,000,000.

"Now, gentlemen, this is mere reminiscence. I have not yet reached old age and anectodage.

"I am after Nicaragua now. My deputy in the White House is acting under orders. I would have got Nicaragua long ago if Mexico had not check-mated me. But I recently sent the commander-in-chief of my army, General

Leonard Wood, down to the South American republics, ostensibly for one purpose, but really for another.

"When we get ready to take Nicaragua in the name of progress and decency, there won't be a murmur about it in South America; and if Mexico protests we will annex her.

"There will be a lot of fat political jobs down there in Nicaragua—a governor-general, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, military appointments, postoffice jobs, railway franchises, banking privileges, irrigation and conservation graft. Besides, when the Panama Canal work must be abandoned, we will have Nicaragua—the easiest way.

"Believe me, gentlemen, I will remember the Hamilton Club.

"Now, gentlemen, you must excuse me." Then opening the door of an adjoining room he asked his guests to look in. Several tables were filled high with unopened letters. Then he said: "Gentlemen, I must answer all these letters by tomorrow night. Au revoir; so long."

On September 8, 1910, at 6 p. m., President Roosevelt sat down among the Hamilton Club banqueters at the Congress Hotel, in Chicago,

amid thunders of applause, meant to be heard by the Socialists in Milwaukee.

After the eating, drinking, ablutions and preliminary speakers, President Roosevelt arose majestically. He spoke as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Hamilton Club, you now gaze upon the human altar before which the royalty of the old world paid its devotions and homage, and from which the people of Egypt fled in terror.

"As you know, mine has always been a strenuous life. But never before have I so strained strenuosity as during my seventy days in Europe, consorting familiarly with emperors, kings, queens, princes and the highest ranks of the titled nobility. I am proud to say that during all that time I never wasted a moment on anything below a ten-spot.

"Some say that I impressed the snobbery of Europe with the power of America; others say I impressed the power of Europe with snobbery of America. Be that as it may; but believe me, boys, I had a bully time.

"When I called on the Emperor Franz Joseph he said to me: 'My great friend Roosevelt, I want you to stay over one day more

with me and go, by moonlight, shooting birds glued to trees.'

"I said, 'Franz, I would like to do you the honor, but it would disarrange my program, and you know that must not be. I can safely disarrange the commercial conditions of my country, but no man can disarrange my program. In my country no man would dare to suggest such a thing. My dear Franz, you are ignorant. I excuse you.'

"Gentlemen, I will desist from any further badinage and get down to the meat of our meeting.

"For a score of years I have had a growing conviction that this country is ripe for a radical change in its government. We have grown too rich and opulent to permit of our continuing at the mercy of the vicissitudes of party politics and the uncertainties of elections.

"A republican form of government is ideal, but a monarchy is real.

"There are many attractive features about a monarchy, among them the fact that the people need not think—in fact, they won't be allowed to think if they dared.

"Under a monarchy the rich can indulge their appetites without restraint, employ a few to

think and attend to business and the affairs of the government. Plenty of priests will keep the minds of the people in a state of abject submission, satisfied to work and slave for the privileged classes, waiting for a raise of wages when they get to heaven.

"It's a cinch for us, although an awful burden to those under us.

"History shows that republics are few in number, short lived, spasmodic and dire failures. The people can not stand the test. They will not think. They can not govern. They must be ruled.

"The protest against republican misrule is heard everywhere. Democracy has failed. A stronger and more stable government is needed. I am here to give it to you. Long have I been in training for this momentous moment.

"The hour has come and I am the man. My war-horse is hitched to your doorpost. Shall we march forth (1913) and conquer?

"I am delighted to be in your midst. We are early friends. Our early loves are our strongest passions.

"Years ago you hailed me as a very great man, but very many people did not know it then.

"You men deserve much credit for your acumen. When Mohammed became great he built a large harem and filled it with a lot of lovely loves. But still he loved Katisha—indeed, he loved her best; for she had faith in him when he was unknown.

"That is the way I feel towards the Hamilton Club. You are my Katisha.

"You had faith in me when others mocked me. Now, none dare to oppose me. I have the license of the gods. My power reaches everywhere—from Washington, D. C., to Zanzibar. I can bring to the dust the proudest as well as the humblest man.

"But I love my Hamilton Club. You can sit on my lap, get my hot breath and roughest caresses.

"I like you because you appreciate my importance. I love you because you are duly deferential and humble towards me.

"When the Constitution is abolished and I am enthroned at Washington I shall make you all Knights of the Suspenders of Saint Hamilton.

"I heard what you said about the explosion in Egypt. I think myself I overplayed my hand. But the bad effect will wear off. I gen-

erally give the public thirty days to forget it; and then, when the clouds roll by, my glorious reputation for honesty outshines everything.

"I have made breaks enough so that the public is used to them. If I did not make a break just so often they would lose interest in me. Leave that to me, boys.

"I communicated with the spirit of Wallenstein and he told me that the stars are not propitious for me to break into the White House now, but to abide my time and it would come again.

"So now the program is to endorse Taft, recognize the insurgents and stand pat. You know 'Pat' is a mighty good word; it stands for Patrick, and every son of St. Patrick is on my voting list. I fixed that with Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland. You know, when I am traveling I sleep at least twice a week at some Catholic parsonage.

"There are some people who think I am overdoing this thing; that Catholics should have the same rights and privileges as all others, but no more.

"I do not own outright the Associated Press and the chain of big dailies, but I control them. I have decided that the American public shall

now demand four years more of Taft and Taffy. You have noticed the difference in the tone of my daily papers. President Taft is no longer the second citizen of America. It is now the faithful, unpretentious public servant. He is no longer being blamed for the tariff bill. I am going to have everybody in American call him 'Honest Bill Taft.'

"While Pinchot and Garfield are playing Punch and Judy with Cannon and Aldrich, Bill and I, in the box office behind, will keep on counting the money. Just as long as you can fool the people you can keep your pockets filled. The moment you are on the square you are lost.

"Gentlemen, I will explain this Aldrich-Cannon agitation. I want Henry Cabbage Lodge to take Aldrich's place in the Senate machine; and I want a Roosevelt man of Willie Taft's pliability in Cannon's chair. *Comprenez-vous?*

"Of course, the agitation appears to be in the interest of the people; but in reality it is in my interest. Furthermore, the People are more interested in me than in themselves.

"After I have re-elected our brother Bill I shall travel again, this time in my own yacht,

the 'Buccaneer,' that will outclass Commodore Morgan's 'Corsair.'

"The bottom of the ship will be a regular Noah's Ark, so that I may have plenty of live targets without depopulating the crew.

"I will have a throne room and many of my courtiers will be with me. I will have many beautiful ladies and complaisant gentlemen on board.

"All the senses will be gratified and some nonsense, also.

"There will be an altar on the starboard side and plenty of priests and Father confessors—and much to confess.

"I will show the world how a potentate should live.

"By the year 1916 the American public will be so thoroughly hobbled and docile that popular national elections will be unnecessary. The Pretorian Cohorts will attend to that and General Leonard Wood will be on the job.

"If I should suddenly be called to my Heavenly Father I have arranged it with the executor of my will, J. Pierpont Morgan, that he will fix it with the Pretorian Cohorts that my son Theodore shall be inaugurated as Theodore II."

WHAT HENRY WATTERSON SAID

about

THE REAL ROOSEVELT

by

EDWARD GARSTIN SMITH

In the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"This book is lovingly dedicated to the asininity of the American people," and purports to be an unveiling of the real personality of America's popular hero. That the people are worshiping a myth, an unreal creation of fiction, a creature conjured up by the imagination of clever manipulators of public opinion, is the basis of Mr. Smith's book, and he proceeds to riddle this effigy with all the shot and shell in his magazines.

The author proceeds with many epigrammatic and trenchant utterances, to arraign Colonel Roosevelt categorically for offenses and blunders: and when he cannot find offenses and blunders—though he rarely fails in this effort—he turns back to the pages of history and recalls some particularly obnoxious person, with whom he compares our ex-President. Nero, Tarquin,

Ananias, Peter the Great, Attila, Jupiter Pluvius and various other gentlemen with rude manners and violent tendencies serve to point the moral and adorn the tale. That Gaius Caligula and Judas Iscariot do not figure in the list is probably due to an oversight on the part of the author; or perhaps he is reserving them for a future volume. The people have been deluded into believing that Colonel Roosevelt is a writer, but Mr. Smith disposes of that hallucination in short order. He says: "Take his 'American Ideals.' It is verbose and prolix: a few trite sayings, a number of second-hand thoughts, buried in several hundred pages of verbiage, and you have this book." To his oratory he gives even less consideration: "If Roosevelt is an orator, the crow is a song bird."

In like manner he disposes of other popular beliefs about Colonel Roosevelt, including his conduct as a soldier, statesman, President, and citizen. He alludes in no uncertain terms to the "Sugar Trust," the "Pension Scandal," the Schley case, the Booker Washington incident, the Panama Canal complications, and gives innumerable other illustrations of what he calls Colonel Roosevelt's "unfitness" to be trusted with the leadership of the American people.

The pages bristle with invective. Mr. Smith's fertility of epithet is a continual surprise. When he seems to have exhausted every name and phrase of opprobrium he will suddenly take a "fresh hold" and begin his verbal pummelling all over again. After calling Colonel Roosevelt "perpetual motion in trousers;" "the Hero of 1,000 Camera Battles;" "a Tin Soldier;" "Theodore the Morganizer;" "Geyser of Egotism," etc., etc., he sallies into the realm of occultism, announces that Colonel Roosevelt's behavior has convinced him of the truth of the theory of the transmigration of souls, and declares that "Roosevelt is undoubtedly impelled by the soul not merely of some one animal, but a whole jungle of wild beasts!" The White House, during what he calls "the reign of Theodore the First," he compares to "the combination of a royal palace, a madhouse and a menagerie."

Mr. Smith strikes one serious note. The worship of a man instead of a principle has never brought anything but disaster to a nation, and Mr. Smith may not be amiss in sounding the warning prediction.

THE REAL ROOSEVELT

BY

EDWARD GARSTIN SMITH

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Theodore Africanus

The Man of Blood, Bluster and Blunders

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